

Amendment to 10/716,546 dated 14 April 2005
Responsive to Office Action mailed 14 December 2004

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of removing a sheet from a stack of sheets, the method comprising:
engaging an edge of the sheet along a portion thereof with a picker bar comprising a sheet engagement structure adjacent an elongated heel portion;
shaping the edge of the sheet to increase its stiffness by rotating the picker bar by at least about 90 degrees to bend the sheet around the heel portion while maintaining engagement of the edge of the sheet by the sheet engagement structure; and
displacing the shaped edge relative to the stack to remove the sheet.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein engaging the sheet along a portion thereof comprises engaging the sheet over a centrally located portion thereof.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein shaping the edge comprises forming a generally right angled curl in the edge of the sheet.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein shaping the edge comprises forming a partially tubular curl in the edge of the sheet.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein removing the sheet comprises displacing the shaped edge with a movement that carries the shaped edge over the stack in a direction toward an edge of the sheet opposed to the shaped edge such that the sheet at least partially folds back on itself.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring the sheet to a sheet compactor.

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8 to 19 (Cancelled)